

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, in the first line after the title insert:

This is the US National Stage of Patent Cooperation Treaty Application No.

PCT/IB03/02169 having an international filing date of 9 June 2003 and claiming priority from Italian Patent Application No. UD2002A000130 filed on 10 June 2002.

Page 1, before line 32 (the beginning of the last paragraph), insert the following new paragraph:

WO-A-82/02869 discloses a coupling device for the coupling up or uncoupling of a drive roller for a coupling conveyor. The coupling device comprises first and second coupling members. The second coupling member comprises a plurality of coupling hook elements, pivotally mounted about their pivot shafts in a holder. Each of the coupling hook is constructed in the form of a swinging lever with a hooking portion and a control portion. The coupling device also includes a control arm which comprises a control portion. The control arm is adapted to be displaced along a guide, parallel to the direction of the tangent to a control ring, between a lower position in which the coupling device is in the coupling position, and an activation position in which the control arm causes a radial displacement of the control ring in a position which is eccentric in relation to the pivot shaft. This causes the uncoupling between the first and the second coupling member, because the second coupling member ceases to rotate while the first coupling member can continue its rotation.

A major shortcoming of this device is the out-of-center (eccentric) and asymmetrical positioning of the control ring with respect to the pivot shaft in order to obtain the uncoupling between the first and the second members.

AT-B-142.282 discloses a coupling/uncoupling device able to be activated only above a pre-determined rotational speed. The two bodies are always meshed each other and they disengaged when the rotational speed reaches a pre-set value. Moreover, when the two bodies are engaged each other, they can rotate in one sense only.